

I couldn't ultimately find a way of handling this story in the way I first intended, with Zoe getting her first spanking from Jamie whilst still on the Wheel and only afterwards joining the TARDIS crew, so I've found another way to get some of the results I was aiming for. My first principles are those previously discussed in relation to Jamie's threat, at his initial meeting with Zoe, to put her across his knee and larrup her. Zoe doesn't have any idea whatsoever what this might mean, because the world has become a totally non-spanking culture as far as child-rearing is concerned. And she also finds it fascinating: she *\*will\** learn a lot of new things from him. One slow-burning thread of the story in my version is how she becomes fascinated with the mystery of this concept, and how she eventually discovers what it means...

But first a slight tangent from that theme, introduced for reasons that will become clear later. When Zoe reports on Jamie to Dr Gemma Corwyn, she mentions the otk/larruping reference (still not knowing its meaning). Dr Corwyn reports in turn to the Wheel's controller, Jarvis Bennett. My version of their case conference on Jamie departs from the screened version by including Leo Ryan. Gemma draws their attention to a number of things that don't make proper sense, such as the Scot's lack of space training and the metabolic signs that, despite his being found aboard the Silver Carrier, he has not actually been in space for very long. And the oddities don't end there: his clothing is strange, and there are also some bizarre anachronisms of behavior. 'He even threatened Zoe with a spanking,' finishes Gemma.

'A ... spanking?' asks the puzzled Ryan, a little irritated that he doesn't know the term.

Gemma explains: 'A form of punishment for children and recalcitrant young women, in use up to the middle of the last century,' she tells him; 'Don't worry, there aren't many young people today who have ever heard of the practise.'

For Ryan's further benefit the literal-minded Bennett adds, 'The man holds the girl bodily across his knees and strikes her repeatedly on her bottom with the flat of the hand.'

Ryan chuckles, 'You know, I have the feeling that might just do our cocky little computer-brat a bit of good!'

'She's not the only one,' laughs Bennett, but Ryan doesn't notice the secret smile Gemma gives to the controller; he has his own ideas about who this might apply to...

Now I'm going to switch the order of a couple of scenes in Part Three, so that we come to the discovery of the Cybermat inside the lump of unbreakable plastic before Zoe predicts the star going nova. On screen the Cybermat scene ends with quite a pointed comment from Zoe to Jamie: she is teased about not having thought, like the Doctor, of using an X-ray, and replies that at least Jamie didn't think of this: 'That would have been awful'. Take the scene on for a couple extra lines and we can have Jamie telling her, 'Just you watch it, or I really will give you a good spanking!'

Zoe still has no idea what he might mean by this. He's going to give her something - a present, maybe? And something good? She's all the

more intrigued because the word 'spanking' doesn't seem to appear in any dictionary...

We move on now, later than in the televised story, to Zoe's prediction of the nova and associated meteorite storm, which leads her into her furious argument with Leo Ryan. She treats it all as a problem in geometry, and Ryan is astonished and infuriated that she doesn't see the pain and suffering it will all cause. Silently he reaffirms his opinion that the treatment described by Bennett would teach her a much-needed lesson in seeing things from a human viewpoint; but the argument doesn't actually get as far as that, because his girlfriend Tanya intervenes. She leads him away, by turns trying to calm him down and criticizing his handling of the situation. 'Leo,' she says, 'my nose tells me you need to treat Zoe more gently!'

That does it! Ryan is fed up with hearing about Tanya's infallible nose (so are some of the viewers...) and he loses his temper: 'By heavens, Jarvis said you could do with a spanking, and that's what you're getting,' he snaps, and drags her into an empty cabin. Zoe, following at a discreet distance, hears the threat and moves closer to the door. Through it there come the unmistakable (but, to Zoe, incomprehensible) sounds of Tanya being spanked: the sharp slap of palm across firm flesh, accompanied by howls and whimpers from the owner of the said flesh. Finally Zoe runs for cover as the door slides open, and a shocked Tanya emerges rubbing her bottom. 'And if our little brain-child gives us any more trouble,' snaps Ryan, 'she's next on the list!' He strides furiously away, and the puzzled Zoe notices a slightly dreamy expression come across Tanya's face...

On now to Part 4, to the scene where Jamie and Zoe have a minor confrontation after he finds her dictating some important notes into a tape recorder and, never having seen one, starts talking and louses it up for her. Zoe expresses her annoyance with him, but Jamie doesn't understand how he can possibly have ruined her notes as she says. He isn't going to stand for that kind of talk from a wee lassie, and is rolling up his sleeve ready to take reprisals when Zoe plays him back the tape. Jamie has the grace to recognize that he is in the wrong this time: he apologizes, and so it's another near miss for Zoe's bottom...

Zoe continues to be fascinated by the unfamiliar concept of spanking, and eventually, when alone with Jamie on the Silver Carrier in Part 6, she plucks up the courage to ask him about it. Jamie smiles that he'd be glad to give her a demonstration, but it wouldn't be very effective while they are wearing the heavy space suits. But before the conversation can go farther, their attention is distracted by signs of activity: they are picking up the Cybermen's communications with Vallance, so Jamie's explanation will have to wait. Zoe remains in intrigued ignorance.

And so we come, finally, to the end of the story, with Zoe hiding away in the TARDIS chest and being found by the Doctor. She wants to come with them, and the Doctor says she may change her mind: before he sets the controls to take off, he'll show her some mental images to give her an idea of what might happen if she joins them. Only instead of a repeat showing of 'Evil of the Daleks', he presents a selection of clips

from the adventures of her predecessor on board the TARDIS...

'Victoria was her name. She came from a nice home in the country. Well, it was a nice home until the Daleks came.' Cut to clip of Victoria being menaced by the Daleks. 'They imprisoned her and forced Jamie to rescue her as a test of his human spirit.' Clip of Jamie battling through the odds. 'Unfortunately she could be a little headstrong at times.' Clip of Jamie and Victoria arguing forcefully, including the threat of a spanking. Zoe listens attentively.

'Now,' continues the Doctor, 'Victoria lost her father in this adventure and had no one to look after her, so she came with us on our travels.' Clip from 'Tomb of the Cybermen' of Doctor's conversation with Victoria about remembering their relatives. 'And she did need looking after at times.' Clip of Victoria menaced by the Cybermen. 'I sometimes had to be quite a stern father to her.' Clip of Victoria rescued from the recharging sarcophagus and then spanked by the Doctor.

'So that's a spanking, is it?' says Zoe. 'I must say it looks a most primitive ritual.'

'Old-fashioned, perhaps. But very effective,' remarks the Doctor, and goes on to show her clips of various Victoria scenes: Zoe watches her predecessor menaced by Yeti, Ice Warriors, etc. ('I never knew there were so many interesting creatures in the universe,' muses Zoe); and watches her getting spanked by Travers (I can't resist that one!), and by Jamie and the Doctor, with her bottom covered, as the costumes dictate, by either britches or panties. ('Is there some symbolic significance in the exposure of her undergarments?' asks a slightly priggish Zoe.)

'And so Victoria left us to stay with the Harrises,' concludes the Doctor. 'And the reason I showed you all this was to be sure you know what you might be letting yourself in for. It's an adventurous life with us, but Victoria found it all jolly hair-raising, didn't she Jamie?' The Scot nods in agreement. 'And so might you. And, I mustn't forget: when you deserve it, you too will be spanked.'

'Ay,' butts in Jamie, 'on your bare bottom if needs be.'

'Oh, but I come from a much more advanced time than she did,' says Zoe. 'I'm sure I shan't be scared. And why should I ever deserve a spanking? I'm far too clever for that! Set the controls, Doctor, I'm coming with you!'

'Very well, Zoe,' says the Doctor, and throws the switch. 'But there is just one thing you're wrong about. It was really very naughty of you to try and stow away on board the TARDIS without our knowing it, very naughty indeed. And you know what happens to naughty girls here.'

Zoe is dumbstruck, as much by the Doctor's contradicting her as by his implicit threat, so Jamie cuts in to make it explicit: 'They get spanked,' he says. 'Hard.'

'Exactly, Jamie,' says the Doctor. 'Now, might I ask you to do the honors for me? Projecting all those mental images was very tiring!'

'With pleasure, Doctor,' says Jamie, grasping the astonished Zoe by the shoulders and turning her across his lap.

The Doctor smiles and says, vaguely, 'I'll see if I can find a pillow.'

Zoe's curiosity is undampened by any sense of her undignified

horizontal position. Cocking her head to look at him, she asks, 'What do you need a pillow for, Doctor?'

'Oh, I don't,' he replies, 'but you will, Zoe, if you have any plans to sit down after Jamie has finished with you. But remember, it will hurt him much more than it will hurt you, won't it Jamie?'

'What's that? Oh aye, it will, it will,' says Jamie, a little distracted by the skintight seat of her catsuit. And so saying, he brings his hand down with a satisfying thwack that sets the upturned globes of her bottom aqiver.

Zoe yelps. This wasn't at all what she had been expecting! And as the spanking goes on, a little part of Zoe is amazed to find herself, a child of the computer age, kicking and squealing just like the Victorian girl the Doctor showed her on the screen. But mostly her thoughts are focused on the simple wish that the fusillade of slaps would stop.

Eventually it does. 'So, now you know what a good spanking is,' says Jamie as he releases the squirming girl.

'Yes,' replies Zoe, moving gingerly so that nothing will brush accidentally against her redhot bottom. 'But there's one thing I still don't understand. Why do you call it a \*good\* spanking? There's nothing at all good about it so far as I can see!'

Jamie and the Doctor laugh as the TARDIS travels on through eternity towards Dulkis and their encounter with the Dominators...